

PRINCIPALS' MONTHLY REPORT – FAIRVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

David Park and Dale Lewis –

With contributing reports from teachers, advisors, coaches, and the community.

MONTH: JANUARY 2009

"A teacher affects eternity-- he can never tell, where his influence stops." Henry Brooks Adams

ERIE COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL

FHS currently sends the following number of students to ECTS each day -- 18 in the a.m. session and 14 in the afternoon. Students who go to ECTS receive 2 credits per semester for their work in the labs there and take two credits of core courses at FHS. They can do this for a maximum of three years.

Quotes from VoTech students:

CHRISTINA REIM – 12th grade

Tourism & Hospitality

"Vo Tech has really opened a lot of doors for me. I am very thankful for the knowledge and experience that I have gained by going to tech."

FUTURE PLANS: Will attend Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh

Ideal job: Hope to find work in a convention center in future.



Photo Montage by Senior Garrett Sanko

LINDSAY BARTO – 12th grade

Computer Networking

"Tech rocks my socks off. We learn alot of hands-on stuff. It's a great benefit for students."

FUTURE PLANS: While studying equine science, I will also fulfill military commitment.

ZACH McCLINTOCK – 10th grade

Auto tech

"It is a really enjoyable experience. I learn a great deal and the teachers are very knowledgeable."

FUTURE PLANS: "I hope to become an auto mechanic and have my own shop."

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Thank you to teacher, Jim Brinling, for this report.

Podcasting with Gcast

Students in the CP World Cultures class at Fairview High School have created over six and a half hours of content oriented podcasts. As part of their work in world history, students researched and presented information on a person, place, or event during the period being studied in class. The products they created included wiki pages and podcasts.

Using the wiki at www.wetpaint.com, the world history class was able to create a class wiki space. A wiki space is a collaborative platform for students to share information and media. In using wetpaint, a podcast manager was needed. Thanks to some great research and support from FHS CFF coach, Pam Stevens, we found a podcast manager to import as a widget, and be user friendly with these first time podcasters. The answer was www.gcast.com.

Gcast is a free podcasting manager that can upload mp3 files and also convert phone calls into mp3 podcasts. There are advantages to using both of these functions within the classroom. Initially, the students uploaded their audacity created podcasts using the class laptops. The sound quality was very good, but the process of converting the audacity file to mp3 format took some time. That's when the alternate method of publishing came into play. Using cellphones students dialed the toll-free number, followed the simple directions and

began talking. When finished with the audio for the podcast, a few simple key punches and their podcast was added to the class manager. It was easy, simple, and straightforward without a lot of technical know-how.

Students created podcasts on a variety of subjects. The Berlin Wall, The Jazz Age, and D-Day are just a few of the subjects of the over six and a half hours of content. While learning about the people, places, and events history; students learned some basic skills of podcasting, and created web 2.0 media for others to reference.

SCIENCE NEWS

Submitted by CRMagraw, FHS PJAS sponsor.

For 2009, thirty three Fairview high school students and two Fairview middle school students have registered for the Regional Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) competition taking place Sat., Feb. 21, 2009 at Behrend College. The entire process builds skills and concepts used with scientific inquiry. Scientific inquiry is approximately 50% of the PSSA tests. Aside from the standards and achievement testing, the absolute satisfaction students experience through ownership of individual projects fulfills a need every teacher experiences in his or her career. PJAS provides the opportunity to take science education beyond the memorization of facts and enables students to explore questions at a different level. Students may also use their project to fulfill the graduation project requirement for Fairview High School.

To participate in PJAS, a student must design, conduct and report on a scientific investigation in an area of personal interest. These students have put in a tremendous amount of time and consideration into the development of their procedure and analysis of their results. Many students in the upper grades have returned to participate in PJAS possibly for a third, fourth or fifth time. The experience has made such an impression on them because it has been a way for them to "have fun" on their own terms with science.

Be watching for our report in March as to the outcome of the Regional Competition. Students who achieve a first award will be eligible to compete at the State competition at Penn State, University Park, May 17-19, 2009.

PSSA TEST DATES AND INFORMATION

PSSA tests for all 11th grade students will begin in February. The writing exams will be February 10 and 11. The math and reading exams will be March 18, 19, and 20. The science exams will be April 29 and May 1. Parents of 11th graders will be receiving more detailed information about the tests with the report cards.

We need your help to make the exams successful, and there are a number of ways you can do this.

First, encourage your child to take these exams seriously. Students who fail the test may be required to alter their schedules for remediation. Furthermore, the results from these tests appear on each student's transcripts which will be sent to the colleges and universities your child applies to. It is in your child's interest to score as high as possible on these exams.

Next, try and schedule any doctors' appointments around the exams. All 11th graders must take all the exams, so anyone who is absent will be required to make the mixed exams up. This will be done during school so the student will miss significant class time.

Finally, please encourage your child to get a good night's sleep and eat a nutritious breakfast. The exams are approximately 2 ½ hours each day so a good night's sleep is crucial. Although the students will receive a light snack prior to taking the exams, having a good breakfast before they arrive should help them concentrate.

If you have any questions about the exams please call the guidance office at 474-2600 ext 3113 and ask for Mrs. Lisa George.

CONSUMER SCIENCE *Thank you to teacher, Denise Arnold, for this report.*

Students in this semester's Clothing class participated in a service project during December. Using fleece fabric left from sewing projects, they constructed four patchwork blankets which were donated to Project Linus. Project Linus is a national service organization that collects handmade blankets and donates them to children and teens that need them. The representative from Project Linus who received these blankets said that most donated blankets are small and therefore suitable for babies and young children. She was especially pleased that the blankets donated by the Clothing class were large enough to be given to older children or teens. In addition to providing a blanket to someone in need this project also prevented leftover fabric from ending up in a landfill. Students pictured are Megan Adams, Kim Fiorenzo, Alyssa Weston and Carole Kossbiel. Alyssa Spacht, Johanna Anderson and Leslie Dann also participated.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

The special education department is gearing up for our annual job shadow experience. All eligible students are given an opportunity to job shadow with local employers. Students are asked to submit three career areas that interest them and time is arranged for each student to see one of their areas of interest first hand.

ACADEMIC DECATHLON *From Mr. Lane - Advisor*

Subject for this year: Latin America with a concentration on Mexico.

Super Quiz: Evolutionary Biology

Novel: *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya

After participating in three local Academic Sports League competitions, the Academic Decathlon class has selected its nine members to participate in the PAAD Regional Competition. Congratulations to these members and best of luck: Austin O'Keane, Erica Robertson, Colleen Warley, Josh Gdanetz, John Hurd, T.J. Masters, Ryan Armel, Christine Keck, Hannah Vogan. These nine team members will compete with other schools in western PA in hopes of advancing to the state competition in early March.

FINE ARTS *Thank you to Mrs. Laurie Hitt for this report.*

The following vocal students were selected to participate in PMEA District II Chorus, January 14-17, 2009 at Collegiate Academy: Perrinne Iannacchionne, Soprano I; Jackie Krainski, Soprano II; Rachel Tallmadge, Alto II; Mike Westfall, Tenor I; TJ Masters, Bass I.

Congratulations to Perrine Iannacchione who qualified for Regional Chorus at Leechburg HS on February 18-21, 2009. She will have a solo and we are informed that this is considered to be a rare honor.

The art department will be exhibiting a variety of crafts from around the world from January 22 through Feb 6th. Students and faculty are invited to attempt to identify the origin of pieces displayed. Winners will be announced following the competition.

STUDENT STORE UPDATE

Our student store is up and business is booming during the Tutorial Period. Students get a pass in the morning if they will be going during the Tutorial and then have their snack and beverage in the cafeteria. A flyer is being produced to distribute for the sale of Spirit Wear (hoodies and t-shirts for starters. Get them while they're hot! T shirts are \$12 and hoodies are \$25.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

January Students of the Month:

9th Grade - Christine Bowser

11th Grade - Marty Roberts

10th Grade - Erin Stroup

12th Grade - Karly Stephens

THINGS WE LEARNED THIS SEMESTER

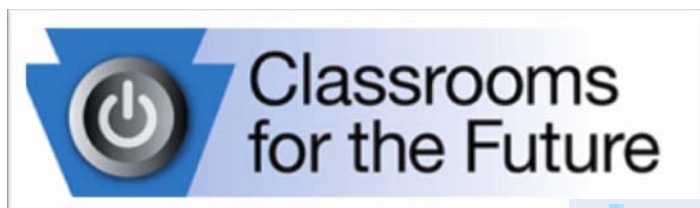
Voices of Students:

ANNA HANKS – 12th grade

"I've learned that I need to buck up – to not let drama get in the way of my studies. *Drawing & Painting* class has taught me that I can paint and it helps me express my feelings."

SAM CRAMER – 12th grade

"I learned how to do HTML computer language to create WebPages and customize them. It's a useful skill because of the wide availability and importance of the Internet. Mr. Double gives us a great deal of flexibility in doing our projects. He inspires me to do good work."



CFF Coach Pam Stevens

January 2009

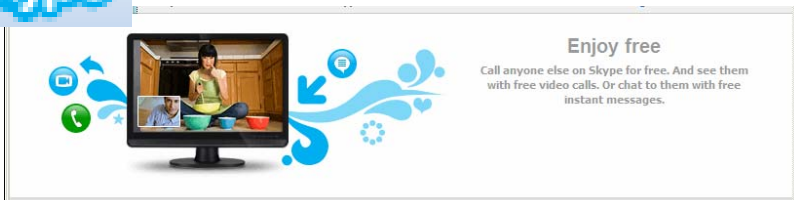
Inspiration



How does a student miss a week of school but still attend class? With a free, online phone-video-text tool called Skype! A dedicated Fairview student and her CFF sociology teacher Mr. Jim Brinling requested that we offer this student a way to participate in class while she was unable to attend school because of a hospital stay. We eagerly obliged them both!

We loaded a student laptop with the Skype software, helped the student set up a Skype account, checked with the hospital about using wireless computers, tested the system with the student, made a few changes to the laptop so she could use it outside the school, and then...voila! It worked! When class began, Mr. Brinling opened the software, hooked up his web camera and pointed it out toward the classroom, Skyped the student, and she was able to see and hear what was occurring in the classroom. She could text Mr. Brinling with any questions and could talk to anyone in the classroom. A few days later, she hooked up her own camera and was able to share her own image with the students in her class.

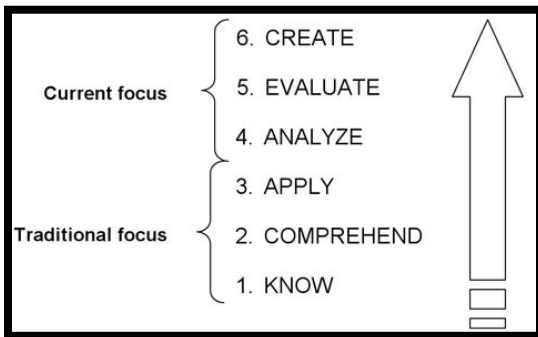
The student was able to participate in the class activities and discuss any questions with her teacher. She was able to work on the class assignment as if she were physically in class and turn her work in via email. She was able to listen to class discussions and presentations. As a result, when she physically returned to class, she was ready to continue and did not miss a beat. What an inspiration!



Mr. Fedei helps to install Mrs. Groff's new Promethean Board on a rolling track.

Collaboration

The regional Classrooms for the Future coaches are working together to develop a two day summer technology conference, 3Cs ETC (Connect, Communicate, and Collaborate through Educational Technology Conference), to allow teachers an opportunity to learn new technology skills, investigate websites and web tools, and observe master teachers model technology-rich lessons.



Last October, five local CFF coaches hosted Collaboration Day 2008 at Girard High School and invited their CFF teachers to attend. These teachers came away with new strategies to engage their students; new knowledge to better integrate the technology in their classrooms in ways that will enhance learning and encourage 21st century thinking; and a new network of teachers and coaches with which to share and reflect. The positive feedback from those prompted a collaboration among the leaders of Northwest Pennsylvania Association of Educational Communications and Technology, the Northwest Pennsylvania Intermediate Unit (IU#5), and the twenty-one regional Classrooms for the Future coaches in Erie and Crawford counties. Look for details about this summer conference later this spring.

Demonstration

Mr. Sanford's Driver Education students demonstrated their knowledge of PA driving laws, the effects of weather conditions on driving, pavement markings, road signs, driving permits, and other important course topics as many students do at the end of the semester in their finals; however, these students created digital projects to share with their classmates what they had learned.



Working in small groups, students developed and presented PowerPoint presentations, simulations and demonstrations through student-created movies, and a student-created wikispace that included embedded video clips illustrating different topics. These projects certainly engaged the audience! The students integrated key concepts from the course, organized and prioritized their ideas, collaborated with their partners, and completed outstanding projects! Kudos to CFF teacher Mr. Sanford and his students!

ATHLETICS

All-Region and All- State Football Selections were released in December. Garrett Stolz was named Second Team All-State Kicker by the Associated Press. He also made First Team All-Region.

Others earning All-Region honors were:

- Jared Lane 1st Team running back
- Ken Martin 1st Team offensive and defensive lineman
- Jordon Kerner 1st Team linebacker
- Brooks Linkoski 1st Team defensive back
- Matt Kaveney 2nd Team offensive and defensive lineman

The boys' and girls' swimming teams have continued their dominance in the region. The girls won the Iroquois Invitational in early January. Sophomore Maggie Glass has set a number of school records in the process. The boys have continued their long-standing unbeaten streak.

The boys' basketball team is off to a good start. The Tigers are 8-3 overall and 7-0 in region play as of mid-season. Senior Chris Glecos scored his 1,000th career point early in the year.

The girls' basketball team won the Union City Christmas Tournament Title. The girls have a very young team, with only one senior on the roster.

Josh Eckendorf earned his 100th career win for the wrestling team. He is undefeated with a 14-0 record this season. The wrestling team has maintained steady progress despite suffering a number of injuries.

Junior Taylor Rozantz traveled to the Netherlands January 14th to represent the United States in the World Cup of Softball. Rozantz has been a key leader of a young Fairview softball team that recorded a 14-6 record last year.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK FOR THE WINTER SEASON

Week ending - December 26 and January 2nd

Boys Basketball - Mike Sundbert and Chris Glecos

Girls Basketball - Katie Frey and Megan Weaver

Week ending - January 9th

Boys Basketball - Charlie Levin

Girls Basketball - Lisa Mifsud

Wrestling - Joe Gennaro

Boys Swimming - Andrew Bean

Girls Swimming - Amanda Lawson

Boys Diving - TJ Master

Girls Diving - Madison Kincade

Cheerleading - Ashley Fisher

Photo Montage by
Junior Andrea Strawn



ATTENDANCE

Attendance

Total number of absences from 12-15-08 to 1-14-09	- 421 days
Average number of absences per day	- 28.0 per day
Average percentage	- 4.5%

Total number of tardies from 11-15-08 to 12-14-08	- 314 tardies
Average number of tardies per day	- 20.9 per day
Average percentage	- 3.3%

DISCIPLINE

The Fairview School District passed a new Bullying/Cyberbullying Policy to comply with a state mandate passed in July. Elaine Surma from the Pennsylvania State Attorney General's Office conducted an assembly on "Cyberbullying and the Law" for Fairview High School students on January 13th. Surma is scheduled to do a presentation for parents at the February 11th Open House.

Attendance issues continue to be addressed by the administration. Some students have lost their driving privileges due to excessive tardiness. A number of infractions have been levied for the use of cell phones and text messaging in school.

Students have been reminded about the fact that their cell phones need to be kept silent and away during the school day. Students found to be texting / talking during the school day will have their phones confiscated until the end of the NEXT school day. We solicit the support of parents to help us maintain a proper educational environment for all students by encouraging your sons/daughters to obey this rule.

The Refocus Room has been busy dealing with a number of students. A good portion of the students have been sent to the Refocus Room for *academic* support.

LIBRARY

Thank you to Librarian, Kim Crotty, for this report.

Fairview High School is reading! And doing so BIG TIME! Staff members are promoting what they are reading for enjoyment with a simple sign on their desk! "This is what I'm currently reading...Ask me how I like it!" A small picture of the book cover plus title and author are making students have conversations with the

faculty about what they are reading for pleasure! Students are even visiting the library asking to check these books out!

This simple reading promotion has also helped increase our circulation. Students and staff are reading some of the newest young adult and awarding winning books. Check out our circulation statistics: Aug – Dec 2007: 2,377 Aug – Dec 2008: **5,647!!!**

A big thank you to Megan Adams, a senior, who donated her time and sewing skills to make curtains in the library for the Tiger's Den. The curtains have created a comfortable atmosphere for students to enjoy while relaxing and reading.

The Fairview Libraries earned over \$600.00 from the Fairview School District Barnes & Noble night held in December. This money will be used to purchase new books for each of the three libraries.

The Fairview Staff Book Club recently finished reading Loving Frank by Nancy Horan. We met at the Colony Pub and Grill to discuss the book, share good conversation, and enjoy delicious food. We also selected a new book, The Longest Trip Home By John Grogan (author of Marley & Me). We will be meeting February 19th – 5:00pm at the Colony Pub and Grill, anyone is welcome to join us. The library has one copy of this book to borrow. Our second book is The Reader by Bernhard Schlink. This is an Oprah Book as well as a movie that will be coming out starring Kate Winslet. We will be meeting on March 19th, date and time TBA. The library has two copies of this book to check out.

The Fairview Young Adult Book Club is meeting on Wednesday, January 14th. The students read Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson. They have been anxious to meet and share good food and conversation. This lively conversation will also include the selection of their next book to read.

KEY CLUB

Key Club Activities for December 15 – January 15:

Santa's Helpers for the Christmas Party for Children of the Faculty and Staff



“There aren’t any icons to click. It’s a chalk board.”

REFOCUS ROOM*With information from Malcolm Beall, and Kim Enterline****as of 1-16-09**

This month has been an active one in the Refocus Room. Here is a listing of the total number of students that came, and for what reason they were here:

Gross Disrespect	Assaulting Behavior	Disruptive Behavior	AWOL	Other	Inappropriate Language
47	3	8	2	36	2
Emotional Support	Academic Support	ASASP			
18	172	25			

Here are our semester totals:

Academic Support	644
Emotional Support	128
Gross Disrespect	205
ASASP	149
Other	128
Disruptive Behavior	41
AWOL	19
Inappropriate Language	18
AWOP	5
Theft	5
Assaulting Behavior	6
Unsafe Behavior	2
Threatening Behavior: Physical	0
Threatening Behavior: Verbal	1
Racial Slurs	4

A note of appreciation from the administration, faculty, and support staff for the fine job that the Refocus Room staff does in dealing with all manner of issues on behalf of our students. Their work does much to maintain the safe and productive environment in this school. They are a kind and supportive resource for students and staff alike.